

[MCC Press Release](#)

Mesa Community College was pleased to host U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell recently as he joined students, educators, business leaders and non-profit representatives to raise awareness of a new program that is helping to build a stronger workforce in Arizona by providing increased access to higher education for Arizonans.

"This is a great example of private businesses partnering with the public sector, non-profits and local communities to invest in education," said Mitchell. "We don't have to recreate the wheel. Public-private efforts such as this can help build a more educated, skilled workforce that can bring and create high paying jobs, lift Arizona's global competitiveness and provide for a sorely needed economic rebirth and development that can be sustained for years to come."

Fast Tracking the Dream is a community partnership to help Arizona residents achieve their educational goals through Individual Development Accounts (IDA's). Students deposit earned income into an IDA that is matched by a federal grant as well as community dollars, which come from the private sector as well as non-profit organizations. The federal grant and community dollars match the student's investment three-to-one.

Students can accumulate up to \$4,000 total, which is enough to pay for an Associates Degree at Mesa Community College (MCC). Thousands of students at MCC are eligible to benefit from Fast Tracking the Dream but are not aware of the program.

For more information on Fast Tracking the Dream, contact MCC's Service Learning Department at 480-461-7393.